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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
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RON CURRY
Secretary

JIM NORTON
Director

August 15, 2003

Re: Revised Regulations for Storage Tank Installer Certification

Dear Certified Installer:

On June 13, 2003, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board approved revisions to the New Mexico Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations that included changes to the tank installer certification program. The purpose of this letter is to inform current underground storage tank (UST) certified installers and prospective above ground storage tank (AST) certified installers about some of the changes to the Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) Regulations that affect individual storage tank installer certification.

The adopted regulatory changes become effective on August 15, 2003. Current UST installer certificates issued as Level A UST certifications prior to August 15, 2003 shall expire on the expiration date of the certificate. To qualify for renewal, a UST certified installer must mail a renewal application by the expiration date of their current certificate, file an application with a non-refundable fee of \$50 and demonstrate that he has completed at least two installations, modifications or repairs during the preceding four years, or passed a written test. The AST installer certification program is new; certification for AST installers shall be required beginning August 15, 2004.

The new requirements are included in Part 14 of 20.5 NMAC. Some of the significant changes for individual certification include the following:

- There is only one level of certification for both AST and UST installer. Level B UST certified installers have been eliminated. Individuals who were UST Level B installers prior to August 15, 2003 may do repair or modification work for which a certified installer is not required. If an UST level B installer wants to become a certified installer under the new regulations, the individual must comply with the installer application requirements that are listed in Section 1403.A of 20.5.14 NMAC.
- The application fee has decreased from \$100 to \$50.

- The applicable experience requirements include one year of work experience within the preceding three years in installation or repair of the type of storage tank systems for which the application is being made.
- An individual must pass a written examination administered by an approved certification educator. There are separate exams for AST and UST certifications that are designed to test an applicant's knowledge of industry standards and codes as well as an additional test regarding his knowledge of New Mexico regulations. The written examination fees total \$120.
- Individuals must pass separate on-site examinations for AST and UST installer certification. An applicant shall pass an on-site examination of the applicable type of storage tank in the presence of a designated employee of the department. Applicants have 180 days and for good cause, an additional 180 days, from the date of application to complete the on-site examination. Applicants shall request scheduling of an on-site examination with a non-refundable fee of \$300.

The PSTB has contacted International Code Council (ICC) to provide installer examinations for AST and UST certification in New Mexico. Based on our preliminary discussions with ICC, applicants can schedule with ICC to take the exam in Albuquerque, New Mexico or El Paso, Texas. A New Mexico regulations examination is also currently being prepared and will be made available through ICC as well.

As previously stated, in order to renew an active certification, an AST or UST certified installer must file an application that demonstrates completion of two system installations, modifications or repairs during a four year period (rather than three projects in a two year period) or pass an ICC or alternative test. The PSTB has also eliminated the requirement of 15 hours of continuing education for renewing installer certification.

There are new provisions in the regulations that modify existing definitions and add new terminology applicable to AST installations. Many of these changes are found in 20.5.1 NMAC of the PST regulations. For instance, the definition for repair has been modified in order to clarify what types of activities require the use of a certified installer. Another significant change is that certified installers shall not perform any installation, modification or repair activities without providing prior notice to the PSTB.

Most of the changes to the regulations that apply to the certification of tank installers are listed in 20.5.14 NMAC, which is available on the New Mexico Environment Department web page <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ust/draftregs.html>. You may download the file as a PDF file, or you may contact Kathy Boyd at (505) 841-9460, or Rosina Lopez at (505) 984-1787 to obtain copies of the new regulations. If you have questions please contact Dan Lopez at (505) 841-9185 or me at (505) 984-1938.

Sincerely,

Kalvin Martin
Manager, Prevention and Inspection program

